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Thursday, March 20, 2014

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Alison Redford resigns

Optimistic exit. Party pressure forces premier out, effective Sunday

RYAN TUMILTY
Metro in Edmonton

Facing intense pressure from her party and caucus, Premier Alison Redford resigned Wednesday night.

The mould-breaking premier's leadership finally buckled under the weight of dissent from within her own party. At times appearing to hold back tears, Redford said the work of government had to continue, even it had to do so without her.

"Quite simply, I am not prepared to allow party and caucus infighting to get in the way of building a better future for our province," she said.

Redford's resignation will take effect Sunday.

Prior to announcing her resignation, Redford pushed her accomplishments as premier, including moving the province forward.

"I am thankful for the privilege of being elected on a mandate to build a better, a more modern and a more prosperous Alberta," she said.

The outgoing premier said the party would have to continue to reflect both halves of itself in order to continue to move forward.

"We have made incredible progress in delivering both a progressive — and I underline that word — and a conservative change," she said.

Her way

"History I think will show that for the short time that Alison Redford led the province we ... did remarkably well."

St. Albert MLA Steve Khan

The premier was recently criticized for her international travel, but she said that must continue if the province is going to continue to prosper.

"I will never apologize for aggressively selling Alberta to the world," she said.

Redford had been facing mounting pressure from within her caucus, with two MLAs leaving and two more saying they were weighing their options.

Edmonton MLA Steve Young, who said he was considering leaving, noted the premier's resignation would allow the party to press forward.

"It's just a matter of going forward, recognizing all the good things that she did and working on where we go from here," he said.

St. Albert MLA Steve Khan, a strong supporter of the premier, said he was shocked by her announcement, but he also hoped the focus could return to the work of government.

"Once we get past this time, history I think will show that for the short time that Alison Redford led the province we, as a province, did remarkably well."

FOR MORE COVERAGE, TURN TO PAGE 3

Alison Redford resigned as premier of Alberta late Wednesday afternoon after weeks of caucus unrest. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Timeline

Recent turmoil led to Redford's resignation

Dec. 10: Redford and an aide attend the memorial for former South African president Nelson Mandela in Johannesburg. It is later revealed the trip cost $45,000.

Feb. 6: Confusion and finger-pointing over the Mandela trip's costs continue. Redford eventually apologizes but refuses to pay the money back.

March 4: Redford reveals that in the last year and a half she has flown her daughter Sarah and the girl's friends around on a government aircraft. She says she has repaid about $3,100 for the airfare.

March 12: Redford tries to stem the caucus revolt by agreeing to pay back the $45,000 spent to fly to South Africa.

March 13: Calgary backbencher Len Webber says he's quitting caucus to sit as an Independent.

March 15: Redford meets with the PC party executive behind closed doors.

March 17: MLA Donna Kennedy-Glans for Calgary Varsity resigns her post and leaves the Tory caucus.

March 19: Redford calls a news conference in the legislature rotunda to announce she is resigning, saying she doesn't want party politics to get in the way of building the province.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premier Alison Redford resigned Wednesday after two and a half years as leader of Alberta's Progressive Conservative party. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta reacts to fall of Premier Redford

Mixed response.
PM, opposition, local mayors send thoughts

LEAH GERMAIN
Metro in Edmonton

Premier Alison Redford's dramatic departure Wednesday night was met with a mix of kind words and political posturing.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued a succinct tweet as his official response: "We thank Premier Redford for her years of service and her commitment to the people of Alberta and to Canada, and we wish her the best in whatever comes next."

Wildrose Leader Danielle Smith told a news conference Redford's move was probably prompted by the series of polls demonstrating her plummeting popularity, as well as the internal caucus discussion and public musing about her grip on her party.

"A leader has to have control of that and be able to quell that kind of internal criticism or they have to go," Smith said. "It's clear she made the decision that she would not be able to quell that kind of internal criticism.

"Let's be frank — I just can't imagine that there is any leader who is going to be able to fix all the problems of the PC party or this PC government ... the issues are too deep, the sense of entitlement goes too deep, the level of difficulty in the managing of virtually every department is too deep."

Staying put

Despite resigning as premier, Redford plans to stay on as MLA for Calgary-Elbow

Calgary's mayor said the resignation came down to a matter of politics.

"It's the story of a system that takes someone like that, chews them up and spits them out," said Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi.

True story?

"It's the story of a system that takes someone like that, chews them up and spits them out."
Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi

Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson tweeted his reaction.

"On behalf of Edmontonians, thank you @Premier_Redford for your service to the people of Alberta," he wrote.

Redford is the second Tory premier to resign the job after holding it for less than five years.

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City not following Okotoks' lead in coffee-pod recycling scheme

Taking out the TASSIMO. Free recycling program ships discarded discs to Ontario in exchange for points that translate into perks for charities

BRYAN WEISMILLER
bryan.weismiller@metronews.ca

Okotoks has brewed up a recycling plan for those pesky single-use coffee pods, but it appears Calgary isn't getting off the pot any time soon.

Earlier this month, the bedroom community began accepting TASSIMO-brand containers at its recycling facility because "they were all going in the garbage," according to a town official.

"We want to offer service to divert as much as we can — and TASSIMOs are very difficult to recycle otherwise," said Dawn Smith, environment and sustainability co-ordinator."

Smith noted the vacuum-packed discs can't be dismantled such as similar products like Keurig K-Cups. It's an issue the European-based coffee has acknowledged, and TASSIMO has since partnered with a third-party recycling firm that turns the discs into plastic garbage cans, benches and playground equipment.

Under the free recycling program, the discs are shipped to Ontario from Okotoks in exchange for points that translate into perks for charities. It's not a curb-to-curb service, though Smith and her eco-friendly colleagues urged people to bring in their coffee packets.

The City of Calgary has no imminent plans to offer a similar drop-off service, according to Waste Diversion Specialist Marcedes Bossaer, who said she only became aware of Okotoks' program on Wednesday.

"Right now we don't have a program and it's not in the plans for the near future," Bossaer told Metro, adding Calgarians should buy from coffee brands that work with a third-party recycler.

The tiny coffee pucks are no small problem, says Christina Seidel of the Recycling Council of Alberta.

TASSIMO Brigade

- Individuals, as well as municipalities, can sign up for the TASSIMO Brigade program. Details can be found online.
- The Okotoks Recycling Centre is located at 100, 1118 North Railway Street. That's about a 35 kilometre-drive from South Centre Mall.
- There are outlets in Calgary that claim to offer biodegradable K-Cup-style products, and other companies online.

From left, Okotoks officials Tracey Chala and Joanne Leach, and active recycler Matthew Scheuerman show off how simple it is to recycle TASSIMO-brand single-use coffee cups at the town's drop-off centre. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Seidel called the discs "completely evil" before agreeing with Smith and others contending the single-serve coffee cups add up mighty quickly.

"If you actually look at the amount of waste they produce — in relative terms — it's a drop in the bucket. That is not the point," she said. "The point is they represent our stupid, wasteful society."

School boards see 'merit' in chatter over unified busing

Could a bus like this soon transport both Calgary public and Catholic kids? METRO

Calgary's public and Catholic school boards say they're open to revving up new talks on sharing buses in light of a new initiative being steered in Edmonton.

The Edmonton Student Transportation Authority, which was formally unveiled Tuesday, will see some public and Catholic bus routes consolidated come September 2015 and the organizations believe they could collectively save up to $2.7 million.

In Calgary, officials were quick to suggest such a partnership may not be as lucrative, given that many buses are already packed. But both organizations suggested they were open to more talks.

"There's merit in looking at it in light of the transportation pressures we see coming next year," said Calgary Board of Education Supt. for facilities Frank Coppinger, when asked about the bus partnership up north.

During a discussion of the CBE's ongoing school-capacity issues with trustees, Coppinger also reiterated fears the busing system will see new levels of stress with hundreds of students from 23 developing communities on the city's outskirts requiring a lift into the inner-city for classes.

"We may well run out of bus drivers in the City of Calgary … the province will be forced to approve new schools in someway," he told trustees.

Tania Younker, communications director for the Calgary Catholic School District, said her organization already shares busing with Rocky View Schools for students attending classes outside of the city.

She welcomed more discussion with the CBE on the matter, but noted "in a number of situations, the buses are being used very efficiently already."

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Students

3,000

Calgary Board of Education officials say they expect up to 3,000 more students will be required to hop aboard a bus come the 2014-15 school year.

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Charges laid. Teacher sexually involved with student for 3 years: Police

Calgary police have laid charges against a private-school teacher they allege was sexually involved with a student for nearly three years.

The instructor was in his 30s when the alleged sexual acts began and the student was only 14. The minor, now 17, approached a confidant about the relationship in early March and police arrested and charged a suspect Wednesday.

Neither he nor the school he worked for was named amid fears it could reveal the victim's identity.

"A teacher cannot have a relationship with any student in a school, whether it's (directly his) student or not," Staff Sgt. Kelly Campbell told reporters at police headquarters.

The accused teacher made his first appearance in court Wednesday and is due back in April.

Campbell said she believed the school would draft a "strategy" to keep its community informed but did not provide specifics.

Calgary police Staff Sgt. Kelly Campbell speaks to reporters. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Police do not believe there were other victims but were unable to disclose whether the teacher had been previously employed at another school and how long he'd held his current job.

Campbell said the sexual encounters were occurring out of the public's eye, but some in the school community had suspicions. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Outstanding warrants

Police looking for Cassandra Ruby St. Onge

Calgary Police are looking for help to locate a person wanted on outstanding warrants. Cassandra Ruby St. Onge, 22, is wanted in connection with vehicle theft and stolen property offences. St. Onge is five-foot-four and 119 pounds, with brown hair, brown eyes and a noticeable scar beneath her right eye.

Anyone with information regarding St. Onge's whereabouts is asked to call the Calgary Police Service at 403-266-1234. METRO

Philanthropy

$1M donation for NMC

Calgary's National Music Centre is $1 million closer to reaching their $150-million construction cost after a donation from the Taylor Family Foundation Wednesday.

Of the $1 million, $800,000 will be directed towards construction and $200,000 for future programming.

The Taylor family has made other significant donations, including helping fund the University of Calgary's new digital library.

METRO

Carsten Rubeling, who teaches trombone at Mount Royal University, played a sombre tune Wednesday to mark the end of the school's jazz program. METRO/BRYAN WEISMILLER

Mount Royal arts programs' finale

That's all she wrote. Jazz, theatre students bid adieu with performances

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Much like Dracula himself, Mount Royal University's theatre program will soon be dead.

For program chair Doug Rathbun, a season-ending production of the age-old Bram Stoker classic seemed a fitting tribute.

"We wanted to make a statement," said Rathbun, who's been with the program for a quarter-century. "Two of the three productions we did were planned around the situation we find ourselves in. We did 12 Angry Jurors in November and it's about a group of people getting together and making really stupid decisions based on bad information."

The theatre program is among those being removed from Mount Royal's course calendar after classes end this semester, a lasting effect of a nine per cent cut of once-promised provincial government funding in the 2013 budget.

University executives had mused about reinstating some of the eight offerings suspended but later said the funds reinvested by the province didn't cover what was once lost.

Students with the fellow ill-fated jazz program at Mount Royal played a series of swan songs during a farewell concert Wednesday evening, featuring current and past students as well as some who'd hoped to enrol in the program before it was axed.

Connor Chisholm, a soon-to-graduate trumpet player, said Wednesday his own younger brother may have opted to apply for the program in the years ahead. Now, students will be forced to other provinces for jazz instruction.

"I'm glad I'm done — I got my diploma, I had my experience," Chisholm said. "But no one else is going to have that experience … at least, we didn't go down quietly."

The Mount Royal theatre production of Dracula, meanwhile, first takes the stage March 27 and runs to April 5.

Rathbun said he's gone through "all the stages of grief" multiple times, but believes it will only finally hit his students when the curtain drops for the final time.

"These guys have worked so hard," he said. "As far as Mount Royal's concerned, I could give a damn. But our students …t that's what this is about."

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Medical marijuana. Cops clarify that they're not taking drugs ... from you

Calgary police have now made it clear they won't be taking marijuana off the hands of medicinal patients ahead of federal reforms due to take effect April 1.

Metro first spoke to Staff Sgt. Keith Hurley with the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams last week and he indicated officials were in the final stages of establishing a marijuana amnesty period of sorts that would offer patients a "grace period, albeit a short one," to turn over their drugs.

But Hurley said Wednesday such a drop-off was just one option considered and that now Alberta police are providing a message "consistent" with Health Canada on how to dispose of their pot.

The federal health body has said a mixture of kitty litter and water should do the trick.

"We're going to follow suit with what Health Canada says; they want it disposed in a certain manner," Hurley said.

Renegades

Some Calgary pot smokers have said they will continue to grow their own bud despite a recent threat from Health Canada that they would notify law enforcement.

Effective April 1, medicinal-marijuana patients will no longer be able to grow the drug in their own homes and will be required to order it via mail from approved distributors — that is, until a commercial operation is up and running in Alberta.

But Hurley also reiterated that direction from Health Canada around the changes has been inconsistent.

"I would have thought this communication would have come from them more often, but it seems to have been slow," he said.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Murder charges stayed in couple's disappearance

Charges have been stayed against Travis Vader, who was accused of killing missing Alberta couple Lyle and Marie McCann. CONTRIBUTED/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rush to judgment?

Travis Vader the sole named suspect in presumed deaths

A mysterious murder case involving two missing Alberta seniors is no longer going to trial, and the lawyer representing the RCMP's only named suspect is blaming investigators for rushing to court on shoddy evidence.

Lyle McCann and his wife Marie, both in their 70s, were last seen alive as they fuelled up their motorhome in St. Albert, a bedroom community northwest of Edmonton, in July 2010. Their bodies have never been found.

Mounties quickly named Travis Vader a person of interest and later a suspect in the McCanns' presumed deaths. Nearly two years later, he was charged with two counts of first-degree murder.

The Crown abruptly stayed the charges Wednesday during a pre-trial hearing, just a few weeks before the case was set to go before a jury.

The McCann family said in an emailed statement that "this isn't over."

"Though we see this as a delay in our search for justice, our family remains confident that the ongoing investigation will lead to the conclusion of this matter."

Vader's lawyer, Brian Beresh, had harsh words for police and prosecutors. He said officers publicly condemned his client without proper evidence and that the Crown sped ahead with its prosecution, proceeding by direct indictment rather than holding a preliminary hearing.

"There was not now, and never was, a realistic or serious chance of any conviction," Beresh told reporters outside court.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Flight 370: FBI helps study data deleted from pilot's flight simulator

Malaysian authorities. They say it seems the plane was deliberately turned back with its communications systems disabled

A woman reads messages for passengers aboard a missing Malaysia Airlines plane, at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, Malaysia.
LAI SENG SIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The FBI is aiding Malaysian authorities investigate deleted data on a flight simulator belonging to the pilot of the missing Malaysia Airlines plane, while distraught relatives of the passengers unleashed their anger Wednesday, wailing in frustration at 12 days of uncertainty.

The anguish of relatives of the 239 people on Flight 370 boiled over at a briefing near Kuala Lumpur's airport. Two Chinese women who shouted at Malaysian authorities and unfurled a banner accusing officials of "hiding the truth" were removed from the room. In a heart-wrenching scene, one woman screamed in sorrow as she was dragged away.

"I want you to help me to find my son! I want to see my son!" one of the two unidentified women said. "We have been here for 10 days."

Files containing records of flight simulations were deleted Feb. 3 from the device found in the home of the Malaysia Airlines pilot, Capt. Zaharie Ahmad Shah, Malaysian police chief Khalid Abu said.

It was not immediately clear whether investigators thought that deleting the files was unusual. The files might hold signs of unusual flight paths that could help explain where the missing plane went.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Possible sighting?

Early Thursday, Australia's prime minister said objects possibly related to the missing flight had been spotted on satellite imagery. Resources had been diverted to the area to attempt to locate the objects.

Pistorius. Girlfriend was standing in toilet cubicle as first shot hit hip, court hears

Oscar Pistorius' girlfriend was standing in a toilet cubicle and facing the closed door when she was hit in the right hip by the first of four bullets that he fired, a police ballistics expert testified Wednesday at the double-amputee runner's murder trial.

Reeva Steenkamp fell back onto a magazine holder in the cubicle and crossed her arms over her head to protect herself, said Capt. Christiaan Mangena. The second bullet missed Steenkamp and ricocheted off the wall and broke into fragments, bruising her back, he said. Steenkamp was then hit in her right arm and in the head by the third and fourth shots fired by Pistorius with his 9 mm pistol, he said. She collapsed with her head on the toilet seat, Mangena said.

Pistorius, 27, is charged with premeditated murder in Steenkamp's shooting death on Feb. 14 last year and faces 25 years to life in prison if convicted. He says he shot Steenkamp, 29, by mistake through a locked door in his bathroom because he thought she was a dangerous nighttime intruder.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Empty mansion

Teenagers charged with breaking and partying

Authorities have filed criminal charges against 14 teenagers who allegedly broke into a Southern California mansion and held a party that caused more than $1 million in damage and losses, including the theft of a stuffed snow leopard. Authorities say the party promoted on social media in November brought more than 100 teens to the La Habra Heights mansion while the owner was away. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Convictions for aiding suicide overturned

William Melchert-Dinkel. Ex-nurse had been found guilty of encouraging Ontario student to jump into Ottawa river in 2008

The Minnesota Supreme Court on Wednesday reversed the convictions of a former nurse accused of encouraging two people whom he met online to kill themselves.

The court ruled that the language in the state's assisted-suicide law that pertains to "encouraging" suicide is unconstitutional.

William Melchert-Dinkel's 360-day jail sentence had been on hold pending the outcome of his appeal. He was convicted on two counts of aiding suicide in the deaths of two people: Nadia Kajouji, 18, of Brampton, Ont., who jumped into a frozen Ottawa river in 2008; and Mark Drybrough, 32, of England, who hanged himself in 2005. Kajouji was a student at Carleton University in Ottawa.

Melchert-Dinkel

Prosecutors say Melchert-Dinkel played an integral role in their deaths, including giving step-by-step instructions. Evidence showed that Melchert-Dinkel, , 51, posed as a suicidal female nurse, feigned compassion and offered instructions on how they could kill themselves. According to court documents, he entered into fake suicide pacts with about 10 people, five of whom he believed killed themselves. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obese baby put on diet

Eight-month-old Santiago Mendoza sits at a clinic in Bogota, Colombia, Tuesday. The baby weighs more than 20 kilograms and will be on a diet to lose weight, said therapist Salvador Palacios of a nonprofit organization that cares for obese children.

FERNANDO VERGARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Belgium

WWI armament kills two workers on old battlefield

A shell or grenade from World War I exploded at an industrial site in the former Flanders battlefields, killing two construction workers and injuring two more.

Every year the battlefields in western Belgium throw up hundreds of armaments from the 1914-1918 war, and most are destroyed without incident. The Flanders battlefields cover dozens of cities where allies clashed with German forces. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya Wildlife Service

Cartel behind poaching, former director says

A famed scientist and founding former chairman of the Kenya Wildlife Service is urging Kenya's president to invoke emergency measures to protect elephants and rhinos.

Richard Leakey said Wednesday that the Kenyan Wildlife Service has been infiltrated by people enriching themselves off poaching. He said the poaching ring leaders are known, but that the government has taken no action. He did not name names. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joe Oliver was sworn in as finance minister Wednesday in Ottawa.
ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oliver says he'll 'continue the government's agenda'

For a time, the Conservative government used something called "event in a box" to help guide MPs on public announcements, a ready-made communications kit that could be rolled out with no fuss, no muss.

As Joe Oliver stepped into the Finance portfolio Wednesday, replacing Jim Flaherty, some wondered whether he would be given any latitude, or simply be rolling out a pre-election package.

"My overarching priority is to continue the government's agenda of creating jobs and growth right across the country," Oliver said in an interview.

Oliver will preside over just one federal budget before the fall 2015 election, one that is guaranteed to feature a surplus for the first time since 2007.

Whatever moves Oliver makes will be done at least partly in the context of electoral strategy and the shape of the next Conservative platform, elements highly controlled by the prime minister and party headquarters. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Toronto Mayor Rob Ford is pursued by media outside city hall in Toronto on Wednesday. an alleged gang member, who also apparently filmed himself describing how to "catch

Document details of

How to 'catch a mayor smoking crack.' Ford's lawyer says releasing police description of infamous video a waste of taxpayers' money

A video of Toronto Mayor Rob Ford smoking what appears to be "a narcotic" was found on the laptop of an alleged gang member, who also apparently filmed himself describing how to "catch a mayor smoking crack," police allege.

A detailed description of the so-called crack video is part of a document, released Wednesday by an Ontario Superior Court judge, containing police allegations used to obtain search warrants in an ongoing investigation involving Ford.

"Mayor Ford is holding what appears to be a glass cylinder in one hand and a lighter in the other hand while engaged in conversation with individual(s) off camera," police describe.

"At one point Mayor Ford holds the glass cylinder to his mouth. Lights the lighter and applies the flame to the tip of the glass cylinder in a circular motion. After several seconds Mayor Ford appears to inhale the vapour which is produced, then exhale the vapour."

The document contains police allegations not proven in court.

The video appears to have been filmed surreptitiously at 7:57 p.m. on Feb. 17, 2013 — showing Ford "consuming what appears to be a narcotic while inside a residence," police allege.

Ford has admitted smoking crack cocaine, but has said he hasn't seen the video. Ford has urged police to release it and dared the chief to arrest him.

Police offered Ford — through his lawyer — an opportunity to watch the video, on the condition he not comment on the video or discuss it

A video of Ford smoking what appears to be crack cocaine was found on the laptop of a mayor smoking crack," police allege. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

reveals crack vid

with anyone, but he declined, police say in the newly released document.

Ford refused to comment Wednesday, but his lawyer, Dennis Morris, said the police offer was "baloney."

"We weren't interested in that. If you want to show the video, show the world," he said. "Don't show it to me and the mayor and say, 'You can't discuss it.' That's absurd. It makes no sense."

Morris said the release of the documents is a "continued waste" of taxpayers' money. "No one could say what's in the pipe," he said in an interview.

Morris also said he is convinced police will find a way to release the video anonymously just before the Oct. 27 municipal election, which will determine if Ford gets to stay in the mayor's office.

"They're doing everything they can to hurt the mayoral campaign and they don't have any charges, so the only bullet they have in the gun is this video," he said.

Toronto police spokesman Mark Pugash called Morris' assertions "disgraceful and completely irresponsible."

"He should be ashamed of himself," he said. "Any information that has been released has been released by the courts."

Three seem to be failed attempts to record Ford leading up to the full video, and finally there is a video of someone who appears to be Siad filming himself "giving a short narrative of what was just captured," police say in the document.

"Siad advises that to record someone secretly you should aim the camera towards that person and they won't know what you're doing as your (sic) just playing with your phone," police write.

"He then advises that's how you would catch a person slipping. He then goes on to say, 'Or even catch a mayor smoking crack.'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oprah Chai. Starbucks joins forces with Winfrey to announce charity tea

Starbucks' annual meeting seemed like an episode of The Oprah Winfrey Show on Wednesday, when the celebrity talk-show host appeared on stage to announce the chai tea drink she created.

The Seattle-based coffee company says the Oprah Chai will be available starting April 29 at its cafés and the chain of Teavana stores it recently bought.

Proceeds from the sales of the Oprah Chai will go toward charities that help youth education.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Google privacy

Lawsuit loses class-action status

A judge has tossed out an effort to win class-action status for a lawsuit accusing Google of violating the privacy terms of email users.

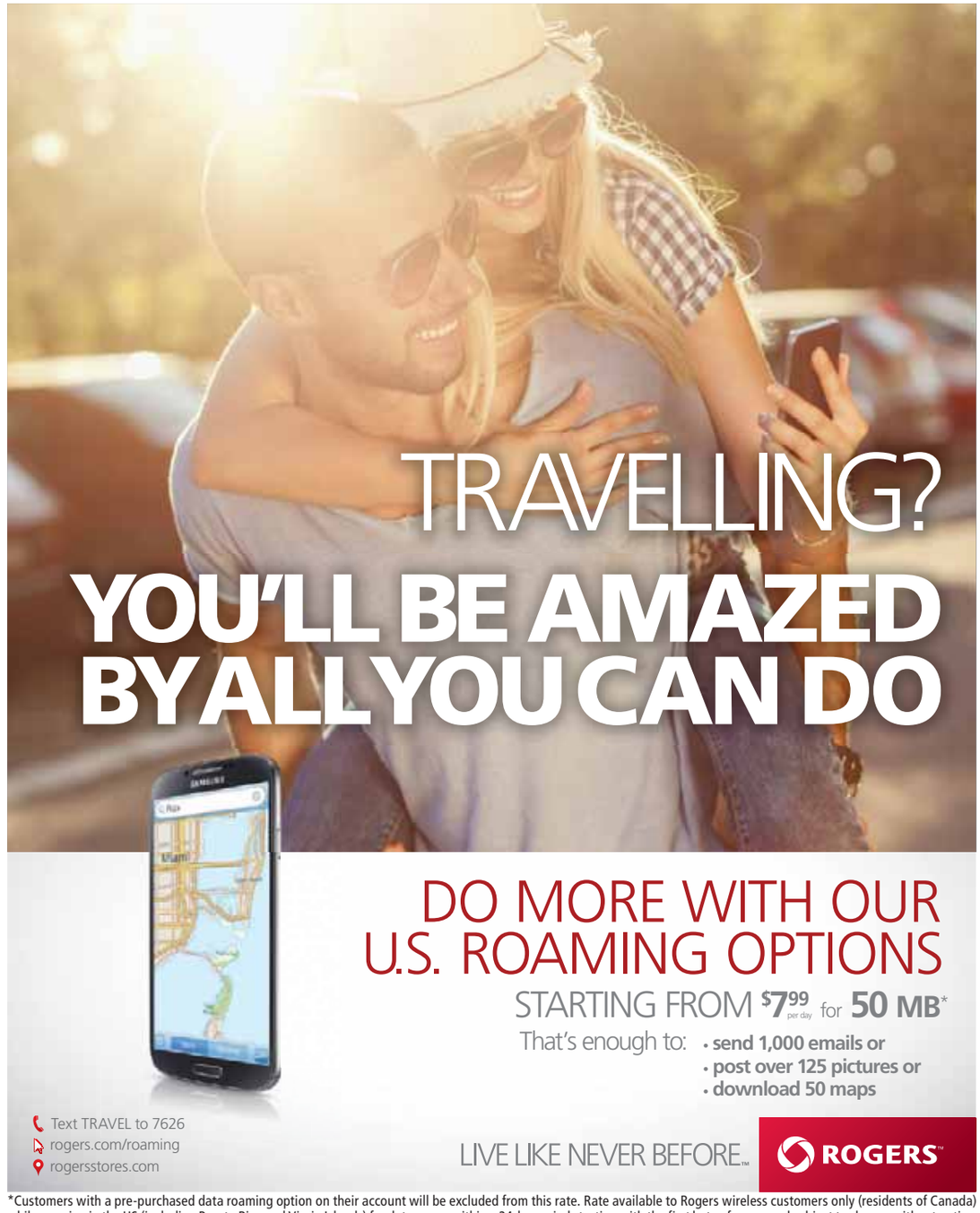
Judge Lucy Koh ruled Tuesday that too many users have too many dissimilar claims to pursue a single class-action lawsuit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Murder ink

Cops called over guy's gut gat tat

Police armed with assault rifles descended on a man's home after a tree-removal crew he'd told to leave his property reported he had a gun. Turns out the "gun" the crew saw on Michael Smith was just a life-sized tattoo of a handgun on his stomach. Smith was not charged. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Armed Crimean self-defence forces stand outside the Training Centre of the Naval Forces of Ukraine while taking over its control in Sevastopol, Crimea, on Wednesday. ANDREW LUBIMOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine bows to Russia's Crimea annexation

Following the referendum. Putin signed a treaty on Tuesday to incorporate Crimea into Russia

Trapped

Thousands of Ukrainian soldiers and sailors are trapped on military bases, surrounded by heavily armed Russian forces.

- The Kyiv government said it was drawing up plans to evacuate its troops.

Surrendering to Russia's inexorable seizure of Crimea, Ukraine announced plans Wednesday for mass troop withdrawals from the strategic peninsula as Moscow-loyal forces seized control of Kyiv's naval headquarters here and detained its commander.

Attempting to face down the unblinking incursion, Ukraine said it would hold joint military exercises with the United States and Britain.

Hours after masked Russian-speaking troops forced their way onto Ukraine's main naval base here, forlorn Ukrainian soldiers streamed out carrying clothing and other belongings in bags. A group of local militia and Cossacks, later joined by officers from Russia's Black Sea Fleet, looked on.

Just how many retreating troops Ukraine will have to absorb in what amounts to a military surrender of Crimea was unclear. Many servicemen have already switched sides to Russia, but authorities said they were prepared to relocate as many as 25,000 soldiers and their families to the Ukrainian mainland.

Humbled but defiant, Ukraine lashed out symbolically at Russia by declaring its intent to leave the Moscow-dominated Commonwealth of Independent States, a loose alliance of 11 former Soviet nations. The last nation to leave the group was Georgia, which lost a brief war with neighbouring Russia in 2008 and ended up losing two separatist territories.

Vice-President Joe Biden, in Lithuania trying to reassure nations bordering Russia alarmed by the sight of an expansion-minded neighbour, said the U.S. would stand by them.

"We're in this with you, together," Biden said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kosovo and Crimea

Putin's justification

Vladimir Putin's key argument justifying Crimea's secession from Ukraine and annexation by Russia is the West's acceptance of Kosovo's declaration of statehood in 2008. Kosovo and Crimea both sought independence against the wishes of their central governments but the two situations have many differences. With the strong support of the United States, the ethnic Albanian-dominated Kosovo seceded from Serbia over Serbia's strong objections. Russia, a historic Slavic ally of the Serbs, at the time argued that the Kosovo declaration was a serious breach of international law that could lead to a series of statehood claims elsewhere in the world. Enter Crimea, Ukraine's strategic Black Sea peninsula. After Crimean residents voted overwhelmingly Sunday to secede and join Russia, Putin is invoking the precedent of Kosovo to justify the vote while the West insists the ballot is invalid.

Ferocious feline to be an Animal Planet star

'My Cat from Hell.'
Expert to feature Lux, the cat from Oregon who attacked a family after a child pulled its tail

Lux, the cat who was the subject of a 911 call. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The large cat that attacked a baby and trapped an Oregon family in a bedroom touched off an Internet uproar that worries Jackson Galaxy, star of Animal Planet's My Cat from Hell.

Cats don't become ferocious felines that turn on their families for no reason, says the cat behaviour expert, who is heading to Portland soon to work with the four-year-old part-Himalayan pet named Lux. Galaxy will film the visit for his show's fifth season, which kicks off April 26.

"Every parental site on the Internet blames the cat for this confrontation. Every pet site blames the family," he said, adding that something is wrong if the cat is acting out. "We need to step away from the hysteria. There is a story behind all this. Don't assume anything."

Lux became a worldwide phenomenon after owner Lee Palmer called 911 and said the cat had cornered him, his girlfriend, their baby and the family dog. Palmer says his seven-month-old pulled Lux's tail, and he kicked the animal after it scratched the child. Then, the cat "just went off over the edge," Palmer told 911. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newfoundland house buried by tough winter

Janice Gould and Rick Cooper's house in Port au Choix, N.L., is almost completely buried under snow on Wednesday. The couple were away most of the winter, but started to get calls from neighbours earlier this month telling them their house was in trouble. Gould said they rushed home to discover it was completely covered, with only its roof poking out of the snow. HO-JANICE GOULD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Different student protest

When Northampton Community College cancelled spring break to make up for excessive snow days, students decided to protest — by wearing flip-flops, bathing suits and tank tops to class. Not to mention plastic leis.

The imaginary beach day on Tuesday at the college in Bethlehem Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania drew sympathy, not scorn, from winter-weary administrators at the school. They set up a Tiki bar with an inflatable palm tree in the campus food court to serve non-alcoholic drinks. Protest organizers Thoai Luong and John Cronce, both 20, were disappointed in the turnout of 15. But all the festivities couldn't change the fact that a weeklong vacation was nixed.

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Toyota hit with record $1.2B penalty in the U.S.

A Toyota Camry is shown after it crashed as it exited Interstate 80 in Utah in 2010. Police suspect problems with the Camry's accelerator or floor mat caused the crash that left two people dead and two others injured. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Largest of its kind.
While feds settled with Japanese automaker over safety issues that became public in 2009, a criminal charge was filed

The U.S. government announced a $1.2 billion US settlement with Toyota Motor Corp. on Wednesday and filed a criminal charge alleging the company defrauded consumers by issuing misleading statements about safety issues in Toyota and Lexus vehicles. The penalty is the largest of its kind ever imposed on an auto company, the Justice Department said.

The action concludes a years-long criminal investigation into the Japanese automaker's disclosure of safety problems, which focused on whether Toyota was forthright in reporting problems of unintended acceleration troubles.

The company admitted to misleading consumers and regulators in providing assurances that it had addressed the problems. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 88.93¢ (-0.86¢)

TSX 14,334.04 (-34.94)

OIL $100.37 US (+$0.67)

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- West Edmonton Mall
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- Westmount Centre

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LETHBRIDGE
- Centre Village Mall – Kiosk
- Lethbridge Smart Centres
- Park Place

LLOYDMINSTER
- Lloyd Mall

MEDICINE HAT
- Carry Drive Plaza
- Medicine Hat Mall

PEACE RIVER
- 10032–100th St.

PINCHER CREEK
- Ranchland Mall – Kiosk

RED DEER
- Bower Place Shopping Centre
- Parkland Mall
- Southpointe Common

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SOCIAL MEDIA ETIQUETTE FOR DUMMIES

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

I get in Facebook fights often.

I try to be civil, but then someone will post about Phil Kessel or Joffrey Baratheon or the Judeo-Christian God and suddenly I need to let the world know why their take on the individual in question is hopelessly wrong.

Digital progress has allowed me an emotional throwback. Social media is where I can revive the rip-roaring bull sessions that used to happen at house parties in my 20s when the smell of pot was in the air, half the guests were face down in the nacho dip, and those still conscious would talk about Big Questions. Why are we on Earth? Who shot JFK? Who's better — Kirk or Picard? Did Kirk and/or Picard shoot JFK? There was a lot of drinking.

Now I can have the same sort of debates without staying up late or buying my own alcohol. (I bought my own at least twice).

Arguing without angering friends or followers can be tricky, of course, so there are rules I follow for using social media with tact. Some involve arguing, while others are just about comporting myself well online.

As with all social-media arguments, I believe my advice is Absolute Truth and anyone who disagrees is an idiot worthy of scorn. It's just the way things are done online.

John's Guide to Online Civility

Part I: Fighting Tips

- As in real life, the soundest way to deal with a fight on Facebook is to sigh heavily, clap slowly and say, "Oh, good point."
- Follow up all death threats with a smiley face to show you're probably joking.
- Whoever posts the last comment in an angry argument thread wins.
- You can avoid direct confrontation with passive aggression. For example, say a friend's status says, "I like peanut butter," you might write "You're an idiot" and you'd lose a friend. But if you write, "Anybody who likes peanut butter is an idiot" you have plausible deniability.

Part II: General Rules

- Remember that writing an offensive or ignorant tweet is one of the quickest ways for aspiring writers to get published in the Huffington Post.
- Employers commonly look at prospective workers' social media. If you must post photos of yourself heavily drinking, try to drink products from companies you might like to work for some day.
- To avoid annoying friends, try to reach a one-to-one ratio in statuses between petty whining and obnoxious bragging.
- If you must announce a death before notifying next of kin, be sure to tag it SPOILERS.

The rules in Part II might actually help you avoid arguments, if you're into that sort of thing. But regardless of whether you prefer to duke it out or play it cool, remember: Facebook and Twitter are public forums. If you must rant and don't want anyone to know, try Google Plus.

Last word!

ZOOM

Fancy a round trip to N.Y.C.?

RANDY SCOTT SLAVIN/REX FEATURES

Photograph turns city topsy-turvy

This mind-bending image of North Cove Marina in New York City will have you in a spin. The surreal landscape was created by photographer Randy Scott Slavin, who used a clever photographic technique to contort the panorama to jaw-dropping effect. METRO

Q & A

Inspiration and challenges

What's your inspiration?
My work has evolved from a love of landscape photography and dis-orientating artwork of M.C. Escher. A friend introduced me to Escher's images in elementary school and it left an indelible mark on my taste ever since.

How is the photography challenging for you?
You have to wait for the right light and in the process deal with everything that mother nature has to offer.

Snap happy

100

individual photographs were used to create the 360-degree composite image. Using picture-editing software, Slavin stitched the photos together to produce a stereographic projection (the mapping of a spherical image onto a flat plane).

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

SCREEN GRAB

After reaching peak Flappy Bird last month, the teeming masses of the Internet have been on the lookout for the next game capable of making frustration fun. Fortunately, a 19-year-old developer has stepped up to the plate with 2048, a few lines of open-source code that resembles a math nerd's version of Candy Crush. The original game can be found at gabrielecirulli.github.io/2048, but there are also a host of goofy remixes that are more fun — or at least more weird — to play.

Doge 2048:
So 2048. Much difficulty. Wow. (doge2048.com)

Doctor Who 2048:
This game replaces the numbers of the original 2048 with various portraits of the actors who have portrayed the Time Lord. If you can build up to Matt Smith, you win! (games.usvsth3m.com/2048-doctor-who-edition)

4:
If you find 2048 too hard, try 4. If you can't win in two moves, you might want to check with your doctor. (ehzhang.github.io/4/)

2048 3D:
2048 in three dimensions. I can't even. (joppi.github.io/2048-3D/)

Twitter

@metropicks asked: A smartwatch that uses Google Now was announced. What would you want your smartwatch to be able to do?

@Canucklehead_ca: Come up with funny responses to questions immediately. (See also: delay last call.)

@TrevorMarr: ToDo list w/ GPS proximity reminder so I don't go past store/shop w/out picking up item I needed. #IWasJustThere

@redsultan: Do basic chores while I'm asleep. Project a 3D holographic image if me to replace me at exams, awkward meetings.

@mtlkeith: Tell me I am eligible for retirement!

@EvanDentremont: I have a smart watch. It already does everything. Incoming calls, emails, texts, blackjack (seriously)

@mitch_waugh: why the need for a "smart watch", when we all carry around our smart phones anyways.

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Danny Bhoy takes on Epson

Stand-up comedy. Show is a 'joyous celebration of our complaining culture'

BACKSTAGE PASS
Lisa Wilton
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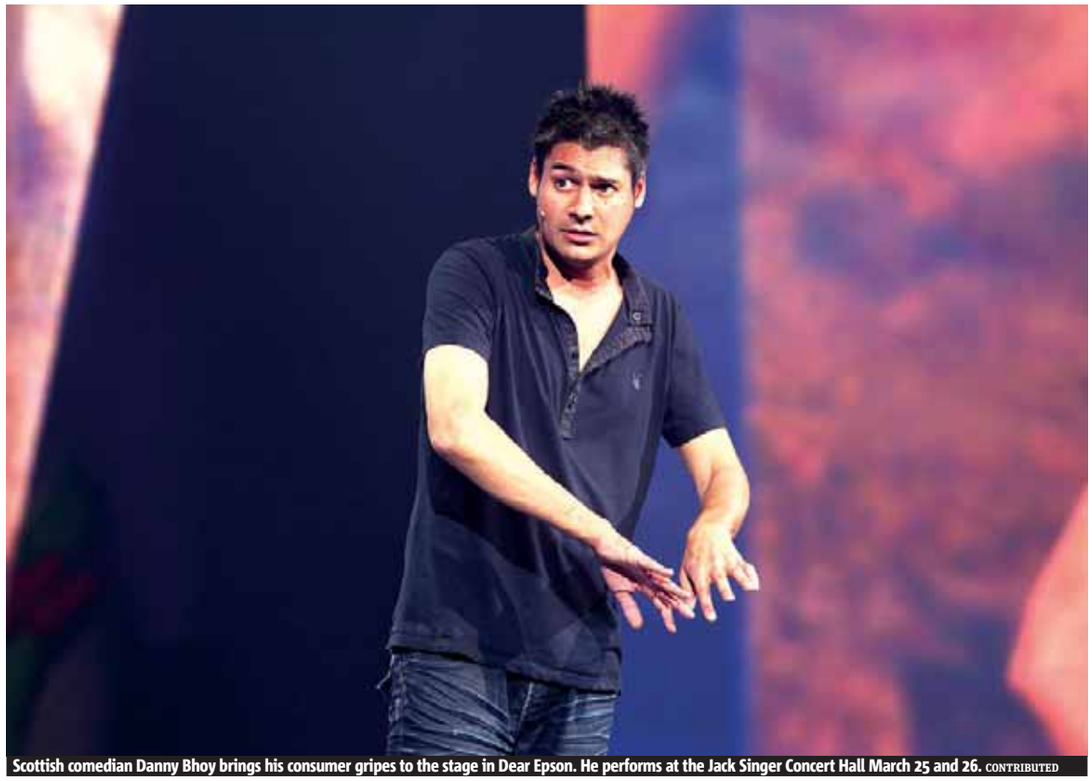

Scottish comedian Danny Bhoy brings his consumer gripes to the stage in Dear Epson. He performs at the Jack Singer Concert Hall March 25 and 26. CONTRIBUTED

What started out as a simple complaint letter to a well-known electronics company has turned into the funniest stand-up show of comedian Danny Bhoy's career.

In Dear Epson, the Scottish comic takes aim at big-name companies and people from his past in a series of hilarious letters.

The idea for the show came about after Bhoy wrote a letter to Epson asking why the company's printer ink cartridges were so expensive.

"It's something we all complain about, but I just thought I'd put it into words how they can justify their ink being more expensive than champagne," explains Bhoy, who is bringing his latest show to the Jack Singer Concert Hall next week.

"It was a very throwaway, frivolous letter in the beginning. But I sent it to a few friends of mine and they said, 'This is hilarious. This needs to be a show.'"

Bhoy describes Dear Epson as a "joyous celebration of our complaining culture," and says it can often be a cathartic experience for both him and the audience.

"It's a very soothing show to do," he says. "I feel like I'm getting quite a lot off my chest. I'm reading some of the same letters every night, but it doesn't feel like there's any less vitriol in them. But it's not mean-spirited. It's quite a fun show. There are some serious points made in it because I like to always leave my audience thinking about stuff."

Bhoy's personal stories and whip-smart observational humour have made him one of the top touring comedians in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and his native U.K.

He started doing stand-up in Edinburgh in 1998 and received critical acclaim for his first solo show at the city's world renowned Fringe Festival just three years later, kicking his career into high gear.

Unlike other comedians, who use their success onstage to launch themselves into a TV or film career, however, Bhoy is happy to remain a full-time stand-up.

"I always thought that this was a job enough," he says.

"It's like the best environment for me. It's what I'm good at. You've got complete freedom and complete control with what you're presenting. And you just don't get that in television."

Where to see the show

- Scottish comedian Danny Bhoy performs at the Jack Singer Concert Hall on March 25 and 26.
- Though the March 26 show is already sold out, there are still some tickets available for the first show through the Epcor Centre box office. Call 403-294-9494 or visit epcorcentre.org to buy tickets.
- He's also appearing at the Winspear Centre in Edmonton on March 30 before heading to B.C., where he'll wrap up his tour in Victoria on April 5.
- Bhoy's cross-Canada tour is the last time he'll perform Dear Epson. He's premiering his new show in August at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

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Since 1979 the Muppeteers' magic has kept Kermit and co. on top

Above and beyond. Before technology made it easier on the puppeteers those from Jim Henson to Frank Oz went to great lengths to bring the characters alive

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Ricky Gervais, left, with the muppets in a scene from Muppets Most Wanted. AP PHOTO/DISNEY ENTERPRISES

When The Muppet Movie was released in 1979 the Muppet Show Fan Club pointed out the differences between the movie and the puppet's popular television show.

"If you think it's a film version of The Muppet Show, you're in for a surprise. For one thing, it doesn't take place in the theatre. The Muppet Movie is set in the real world — it's like waiting in line at a gas station and looking up to find Fozzie and Kermit driving the next car over." In the subsequent seven theatrical Muppet movies that magic has been maintained, but the methods have changed over the years. In 2011's The Muppet Movie all the puppets were real, but the way they were filmed changed. To give the puppets a full range of movement the puppeteers — or Muppeteers as they prefer to be called — were often in full view of the camera and digitally removed in post production.

"We removed the puppeteers later," said visual effects artist Max Ivins, "so it gave the puppeteers a lot more freedom in that they didn't have to hide from the camera to do everything." It's a technique used in Muppets Most Wanted, which sees the furry and felt puppets get into trouble on a world tour when it turns out that Kermit's doppelgänger is the world's number one criminal. Co-starring with the Muppets is Ricky Gervais, Ty Burrell and Tina Fey. In the years before computer generated imagery, however, Muppeteers hidden from view manipulated all the puppets. And it wasn't always so comfortable.

Everyone remembers Kermit sitting on a log, playing his banjo, in the middle of a swamp in The Muppet Movie, but did you know that Jim Henson, Kermit's creator and operator until 1990, was under water for the five days it took to shoot the scene?

According to the Muppet Fan Club he was wedged into a metal tube "under the water, under the log, under the Frog" while hooked up with an air hose, a monitor and a rubber sleeve which allowed him to manipulate the puppet.

Frank Oz was also submerged for Miss Piggy's water ballet scene in The Great Muppet Caper. "I was under the water for a week," he says. "I had three days of scuba training and then down I went." Finally, almost every Muppet movie features Kermit riding a bicycle. How did they do it in the early days? Director James Frawley jokes, "I put him on a three-wheeler until he got his balance, and then I put him on the two-wheeler."

In fact, the effect was achieved by intercutting long shots using a Kermit marionette and close-ups with a hand puppet operated by Henson who rode along with the bike on a low-rolling dolly.

Devotion

"I was under the water for a week. I had three days of scuba training and then down I went."

Frank Oz, Miss Piggy's puppeteer
On the lengths he had to go to for Miss Piggy's water ballet scene in The Great Muppet Cape.

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March 31

Coldplay singer joins battles round of The Voice

Chris Martin GETTY IMAGES FILE

Coldplay singer Chris Martin is bringing his expertise to NBC's music competition show The Voice.

The network said Martin will participate in the battles round that begins March 31, advising singers on vocal technique and stage presence. The singers are vying for the attention of their team coaches, who must decide who gets to move on in the show.

The Voice has established itself this season as the most popular of the music shows, eclipsing the long-running champ American Idol on Fox.

Coldplay is releasing a new album in May.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What a way to make a livin'. Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin to reunite on Netflix, but no Dolly

Jane Fonda disappeared from movie screens for 15 years, content to do killer ab work and step aerobics on the small screen.

She's not exactly everywhere now, and her choices for her comeback have not always been, shall we say, good (see Monster-in-Law, and Georgia Rule with Lindsay Lohan — though she slew as Nancy Reagan in Lee Daniels' The Butler).

So now's the time for some real nostalgia: Fonda will be reuniting with her 9 to 5 costar Lily Tomlin for Grace and Frankie, a single camera comedy about nemeses brought together when their respective husbands announce they're in love and will get married.

It's the latest Netflix show, meaning you'll be able to either watch the whole thing in one glutinous sit or abandon it after a single episode and click on Crocodile Dundee II instead.

Where's Dolly Parton, you ask? She could stand a screen comeback, being as her last appearance was in the gospel-country musical Joyful Noise.

From left, Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton pose at the 9 to 5 25th Anniversary DVD launch in 2006. Now, Fonda and Tomlin are working together on a Netflix show called Grace and Frankie. GETTY IMAGES FILE

As such, she possibly feels like John Paul Jones did when Robert Plant and Jimmy Page reunited Led Zeppelin without him in 1994. But there's probably a perfectly understandable reason Parton isn't joining them. And perhaps she'll even make a guest appearance.

The 13-episode run will premiere next year, just in time for you to finally power through every single one of the thousands of TV shows Netflix houses that you always meant to watch.

MATT PRIGGE/METRO WORLD NEWS

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M.I.A. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Millions NFL is seeking from rapper still M.I.A.

Rapper M.I.A.'s feud with the NFL isn't going away, as the sports league has apparently been after her for two years to pay a $1.5 million US fine for flipping the bird during the 2012 halftime show, according to the Hollywood Reporter. And on top of that, the NFL is apparently looking for an additional $15.1 million US as "restitution" because of how much exposure the incident garnered M.I.A. The NFL maintains that her stunt was a "flagrant disregard for the values that form the cornerstone of the NFL brand and the Super Bowl" and that she breached an agreement to maintain the league's "reputation of wholesomeness," a charge her legal team finds laughable. "The claim for restitution lacks any basis in law, fact or logic," her reps says. "The continued pursuit of this proceeding is transparently an exercise by the NFL intended to bully and make an example of (M.I.A.) for daring to challenge the NFL." The rapper at least has a sense of humour about it, asking fellow halftime show performer Madonna if she could borrow $16 million in a tweet that was later deleted.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

LiLo's sex list Blooming with names

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Everyone! Important news! More names on Lindsay Lohan's sex list have been revealed! And yes, you will want to know who they are.

Earlier in the month, I told you about In Touch's "world exclusive" report, in which the mag somehow got a hold of Lindsay Lohan's handwritten conquest list. Heath Ledger, Adam Levine, Zac Efron, Justin Timberlake, Joaquin Phoenix, Colin Farrell, Evan Peters, Wilmer Valderrama and Jamie Dornan all made the cut, for better or worse. However, some of the names were blanked out for what everyone assumed were legal reasons — but now we know it was just a clever way for In Touch to drag the story on for as long as possible.

The new batch of names include Ashton Kutcher, Orlando Bloom, Benicio Del Toro, Ryan Phillippe, rugby player Danny Cipriani, NHL player Aaron Voros and director Josh Mond. So, there you go. Everyone famous who Lindsay Lohan has had sex with. The only person who is missing is Danny DeVito. And at this point, he probably didn't make it because she couldn't figure out how to spell DeVito.

Twitter

@solangeknowles
Think'n about adding "this is shade" to all my tweets that r actually shade, in the way u have to add "this is sponsored" to avoid confusion

@AnnaKendrick47
Hey fellow humans, when u see me out picking up prescriptions and want to get a photo, can u be super cool and just not do that? Thank you!!

@pattonoswalt
"That Sherlock Cumberbatch man could find the Malaysian plane in 5 minutes." -- someone's mom, probably

Is Schwartzman's pooch really a service dog?

Every dog owner has had a momentary flash of jealousy toward service dogs. Why does someone else get to bring his dog inside a restaurant, they think, while my precious baby has to wait in the car? Such is their love for their pooches that some owners even create false service dog badges and jackets for their darlings — temptingly easy to do, especially since dogs in outfits are always adorable. Now, it seems that Jason Schwartzman's dog Arrow has temporarily joined the service dog ranks.

Grand Budapest Hotel star Schwartzman was recently in Austin for SXSW, with French bulldog Arrow in tow. Master and pup were spotted in the Austin airport preparing to board a flight, and Arrow was wearing a service dog badge, according to Page Six.

So what service is Arrow providing to Schwartzman? Hard to say. Service dogs are used for a variety of conditions, not all of which are visible to the naked eye. However, there are numerous photos of Schwartzman and Arrow out and about together, with no sign of a service badge in sight. Maybe Arrow's a recent grad from his training — or maybe Schwartzman just didn't want to relegate his furry friend to a crate.

Jason Schwartzman

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Keeping it Karl and collected

The shades of showmanship. In the wake of his new flagship store opening and perfume launch, we sat down with Karl Lagerfeld to talk about street style, scents and his ever-growing list of projects

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News

'This is why I don't do selfies. I hate selfies! It's too wide, it's too wide! Take the light away. Okay, I'll go to the shelf over there,' Karl Lagerfeld says.

We're in a hotel suite in Mayfair, London, and I'm following him from one corner of the room to another as we search for good lighting and the right angle for the perfect selfie.

'Oh wait,' he gives my iPhone back to me, 'Please turn it. I can only see you. I can take a selfie of you, hmmm?' Karl then settles for a softly lit spot next to a bookshelf.

He looks remarkably spry and energetic considering that he's just gotten off a plane from Paris for a quick trip here to celebrate the launch of his first flagship store in the UK for his eponymous clothing line and his new perfume range, which is now available in stores globally.

He plans to fly back as soon as the parties are over. ('He doesn't like to be away from Choupette for too long,' one of his team members tells me.) But first there is an interview to do and selfies to take. 'I think they're electronic masturbation,' he says. But he does one for us anyway.

Click and clothe: Karl Lagerfeld's new store in London has iPads built into its changing room walls so customers can take selfies while they shop.
PROVIDED

Death to all things dull

> "The only thing that tires me is when I'm bored. Boredom is the most tiring thing. Perhaps people have boring lives. I have no time for that, eh?"

You've opened a new store and launched a new perfume. This is a big week for you.

This is a big week but I'm used to this kind of week so I don't consider them really big. For me it's a normal week. I do so many things at the same time. I do photos. I work on the collections to come, cruise and all that. For me, something like a launch in Paris is almost like recreation for me. Because it's different from the normal daily discipline and work.

Well, I think that in addition to bottling your perfume you should bottle your energy and sell that in your stores.

Yes, but I need it myself so I can't sell those bottles, hmm? My energy in a way improved with age. When I was very young I had very low blood pressure and was tired all the time. Now, I'm just tired to go to bed and sleep. But I'm not tired in the rest of the day. The only thing that tires me is when I'm bored. Boredom is the most tiring thing. Perhaps people have boring lives. I have no time for that, eh?

Karl and Kenya's successful selfie.
KENYA'S PHONE

Your clothes are obvious hits on the street style circuit. What do you say to those who argue that street style culture has gone too far?

This is a fake problem. Everything changes. I think in today's world there's also big change in magazines and in the collections. We live in the middle of change. Look at how the world has changed since this and all that. The computer has changed it all. Fashion is about change and the world is about change too. The changes in the world are not as quick as the changes in fashion. But we are in the middle of a huge change. I say, don't compare the present to the past if you want to survive happily in the next period. You have to adapt. Times don't have to adapt to you. And then you start to say, 'Oh the good old days'. And then you're over.

Before we go, any dos and don'ts for habitual perfume wearers?

I wear several perfumes at the same time. You know why? Because if you only use one you don't smell it anymore. And then you put so much on that other people nearly faint when they see you, while you don't think you smell at all. So it's good for the nose to change. And then there are perfumes that I like to put on sheets and curtains.

Where do you normally like to wear it? Behind the ear, on your wrist?

Only on the clothes. Never on the skin. That's not the best thing to do. Even today it's less dangerous than in the past. In the past it was dangerous you know? In the past if you used bergamot and then went into the sun, you got sun spots. That's why women used to put it behind the ears because it's a place that the sun won't touch. I hate to have sun spots on my hands, that's why I wear the gloves. You have to take care of these things, you know? You don't have this kind of problem but I have.

Karl! You've done so many things.

Never enough.

You once said that you would never put your name to toilet paper.

I haven't been proposed with that kind of project yet and I don't think it's that chic but it's stuff everybody needs so that could change my mind.

Ceiling the deal with colour that hits the high spots

Come together: Papering ceilings and walls in a small patterned print minimizes angles. CONTRIBUTED

Crowning glory: For a dramatic touch, gold-leafed paper provides a luxurious sheen. CONTRIBUTED

White isn't the only option. Colourful ceiling exceptions to the blank canvas rule

DESIGN CENTRE
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I am re-painting the inside of my house this spring and I'd like to paint the ceilings a colour other than white. What are the designer rules? — Caren Lim, Vancouver

I'm sure you've often heard that ceilings should always be painted white, as it helps bounce natural light down into the room and offers visual relief from all the other colours and patterns in a room. That decorator rule holds true most of the time, but there are a few exceptions when changing up the colour of the ceiling has some advantages.

Extra-high ceilings

An extra-high ceiling in a small room can make a room feel smaller as it throws the proportion of the room off, giving it the cracker-jack box effect. Painting the ceiling (and any crown moldings) the same colour as the walls will help to visually lower the ceiling and soften the edge from wall to ceiling.

Vaulted rooms

Angled ceilings and walls are often features on the upper floors of older homes. A trick to take away the angles is to paint the walls, angled areas and ceiling the same colour. Wallpapering everything with a small patterned print will also help visually take away any distinct angles. Another trick is to add tall beadboard wainscotting to the walls, then paint the remaining top wall space and ceiling a great colour.

A room with dark walls

Whenever I paint a very dark room (like a cranberry red dining room or navy blue family room) I paint the ceiling a much lighter version of the floor colour. For example, if the wood floors in a dining room are golden oak, then I'd paint the ceilings a very pale golden taupe colour. This helps take away that crisp light-to-dark edge that would happen with dark walls and white ceiling. It softens the feeling of the room and helps to create a nice glow in the room. Using a gloss paint with dramatic wall colours can also add a touch of glamour and is becoming a big trend.

Generous to a vault

Painting the ceiling (and any crown moldings) the same colour as the walls will help to visually lower the ceiling and soften the edge from wall to ceiling.

Wallpaper on a ceiling

The only time I have ever seen wallpaper work well on a ceiling is when a gold or silver-leafed paper was applied, giving the ceiling a sheen and lux touch. This looks exceptionally great in dramatic rooms like dining, powder or bedrooms where silver or gold metal tones are used.

In basements

A very-barely-there blue is a great option as it keeps the room feeling bright. Blue is also a reflective colour that helps brighten dingy spaces.

White walls: Trick the eye by adding tall beadboard wainscotting and painting the wall above and the ceiling in a great colour. CONTRIBUTED

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Rehab your rubbish

DIY. Give wooden salvage a second life with four ideas that turn junk into gems

Every homeowner is guilty of abandoning old home furnishings that were left to collect dust. Don't wait any longer to rescue your forgotten gems from the dust bunnies in the back of your closet, attic or garage. Consider transforming odds and ends into helpful household items which can be both cost effective and practical. You may discover that even the most seemingly useless items can be functional again with a little inspiration and a touch of creativity.

Salvage Dawgs

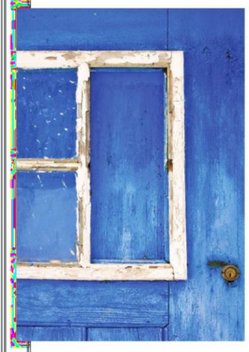
- For more DIY ideas on salvaging old finds, tune into Salvage Dawgs, Tuesdays at 9:30 p.m. on DIY Network Canada.

4 ways to repurpose household items

When opportunity knocks

Give your morning coffee and newspaper a place to relax by repurposing an old wooden door into a new coffee table. First, sand down the wood to ensure that there are no rough areas that may cause splinters or harm and then either paint or stain the wood. Next, salvage legs of the same length from old furniture, or make your own, and attach them to the bottom. Choose a rustic look by leaving it bare, or give it a sophisticated touch with the addition of a glass top.

Solve your window panes



Never forget to pick up groceries again by turning a plain window frame into a versatile cork board. Use double-sided tape to fasten cork behind the window frame and mount it on a wall in your home. Use push pins to post notes, grocery lists and reminders as well as pictures to add a personal touch to your home. For additional convenience, consider adding a shelf to set down your house and car keys.

Stairway to spick and span

Organize your front hall area and impress your guests by showing off a new convenient coat rack created from an old stairway banister. Simply coat the wood with a splash of paint, attach the banister to a sturdy stand, add some hooks, and you'll have a new home for coats and accessories.

Shutter the clutter

If your mail pile is mayhem, consider the shutter solution by converting wooden window shutters into a practical mail and letter holder.

The shutter solution is a great way to give your home a pop of colour or to experiment with stencilling for a unique design. Once you have decided on the design, mount the shutter to your desired area and watch the cluttered chaos disappear.

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HOUSING SALES STRONGER THAN EXPECTED

IN WESTERN CANADA

ANDY DEAN PHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK

The extreme winter weather — polar vortex and all — has taken a toll on home sales nationally, as buyers keep home shopping plans on ice until the big spring melt.

Despite the slight decline in home sales (down 3.3 per cent from January to December 2013) and flat numbers for new listings across the country, prices are still up 9½ per cent nationally — the average Canadian home will cost $391,000 in 2014.

It's different in Western Canada, where prices and sales activity are stronger than expected. The Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) reports the country's biggest gains in B.C., with that province forecasting 8.4 per sales increases in 2014, while most other provinces have modest growth of two to four per cent.

"Most housing markets are well-balanced, including many large urban centres," says Gregory Klump, CREA's chief economist. "Housing price gains are always stronger in places where supply is tight, relative to demand, such as we're seeing in Calgary."

Calgary is expected to see year-over-year price growth of 8.98 per cent in 2014, but lack of choice in single-family homes means it's the condo sector that is surging there.

"Consumers looking for more affordable product turned to Calgary's condominium market, the only sector to record growth in new listings compared to January 2013," says Calgary Real Estate Board president Bill Kirk.

In major markets like Vancouver, detached house and condo prices continue to rise, with experts pointing to an attractive lifestyle, scarce inventory and wealthy immigrant buyers helping fuel demand. But with prices there approaching $1 million for a single-family homes, many are priced out of the market.

Canadian housing is overvalued, experts agree, predicting a much needed correction in home prices by up to 20 per cent over the next five years. For many buyers, the only answer remains the condo market, up 3.7 per cent in Greater Vancouver over the past year, but still affordable at $371,500 on average.

In Edmonton, the average condo selling price was up 3.2 per cent, with that market predicted to remain active in 2014. A slight slowdown in all sectors is predicted for Saskatchewan in 2014-15.

– Lucy Haines

TURNING GOOD IDEAS INTO PROFIT

THE RED DOOR VENTURE GROUP

MONKEY BUSINESS IMAGES /SHUTTERSTOCK

For real estate developers and industry insiders, Saskatchewan's solid economic foundations make it the land of potential growth and opportunity.

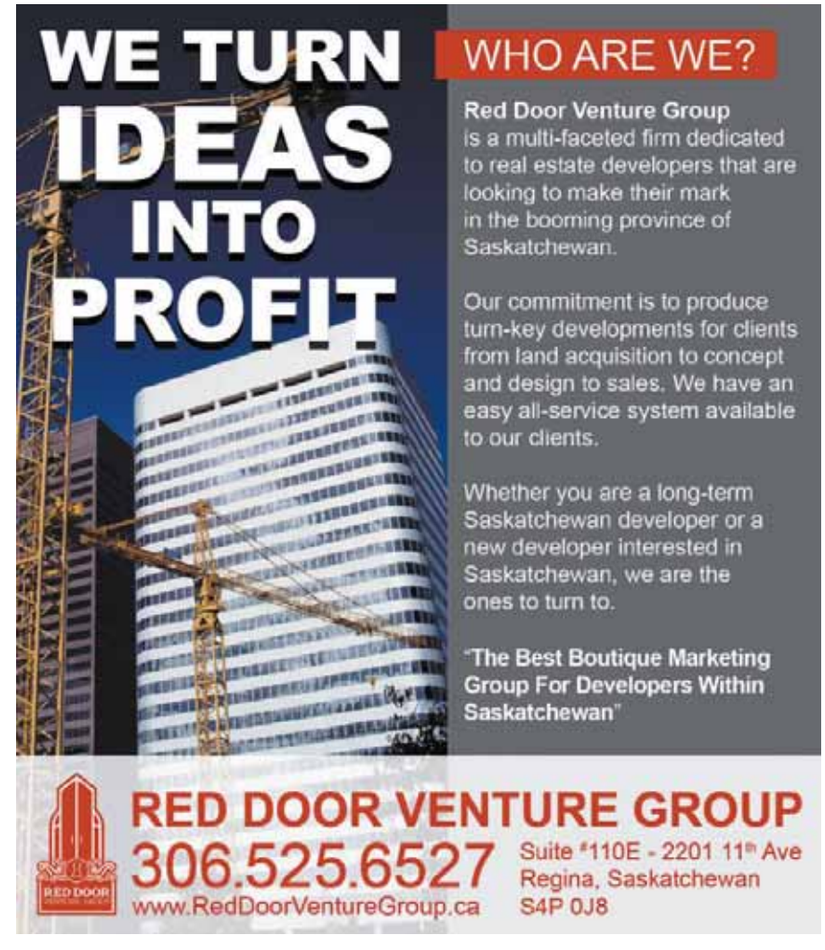
"There is real estate potential as far as the eye can see in Saskatchewan, and it is potential that investors should be taking advantage of," says Jaimey Midtdal, spokesperson for the Red Door Venture Group. "The amount of undeveloped land has attracted real estate developers who see a bright future and burgeoning economy."

The Saskatchewan-based real estate marketing company teams up with outstanding local developers to deliver high-quality developments across the province, Midtdal says. Saskatchewan's potential for development has opened up the real estate market for new and innovative opportunities, for both developers and buyers.

"The province's solid economic foundation has allowed unprecedented growth in Saskatchewan, and the real estate market has followed suit," Midtdal says. "It's growth we're proud to be a part of. We turn good ideas into profit for our customers, while giving them the tools they need."

The Red Door Venture Group works with developers throughout their process, beginning at the land acquisition stage and continuing through to the concept, design, and sales stages.

For more about Red Door Venture Group or to schedule a complimentary consultation, visit RedDoorVentureGroup.ca.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IDEAS
INTO
PROFIT
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PROTECT THE ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD

CONTRIBUTED

It was November 2011 when a significant wind storm with winds reaching more than 150 kilometres per hour swept over Calgary and southern Alberta, causing extensive property damage to residential homes and city buildings.

"Wicked winds that shuttered Calgary's downtown core and wreaked havoc across parts of southern Alberta cost insurers at least $200 million," says Big Top Roofing & Exteriors general manager David Bellingham.

Bellingham noticed that even correctly installed shingles from most of the major manufacturers were damaged in the storm with the exception of one type — the Owens Corning Duration (OCD) shingle.

During his subsequent analysis, Bellingham discovered that OCD shingles are engineered to deliver wind resistance of more than 200 kilometres per hour.

"No wonder those shingles didn't blow off. One of the major features of this product is a patented technology called SureNail Technology, which is an engineered fabric that is embedded into the shingle to give it extra resistance."

HIGH STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

Big Top Roofing & Exteriors Inc. has been serving Calgary for 17 years. The company is licensed, bonded, insured and has worked diligently to become Calgary's most trusted roofing and exteriors companies. The company's high level of service and high-quality installations include a 10-year workmanship warranty on all completed work.

Bellingham tested the product himself by having his crew install the OCD shingles onto his house.

"The job turned out amazing. The 3D effect of this laminate shingle was visually appealing. The feedback from my installers was that the installation process went smoothly with no issues."

That's when Big Top Roofing & Exteriors began to use the resilient shingle and it hasn't "looked back since."

"The quality of this product and the SureNail Technology has resulted in no wind-related service calls since we started using the product. This product is definitely in line with our demands for quality products to service our customer base."

Big Top Roofing has since toured the shingle plant in Portland, Ore., and in 2013 was granted "preferred contractor" status with Owens Corning, which establishes the shingle company's belief in Big Top's high standards of excellence.

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LIVING IN THE HEART OF KENSINGTON

LIDO BY BATTISTELLA

CONTRIBUTED

Every once in a while a new development sweeps in and changes the game — right now that venture is LIDO by Battistella in the highly-coveted community of Kensington.

The unique new condo project combines residential, retail and even a boutique hotel in an eight-level, multi-use building located in the heart of the vibrant Kensington, says Battistella director of sales and marketing Traci Wilson.

"This is a one-of-a-kind building and there's nothing else quite like it so people are quite excited," she says. "Kensington is very popular and you can literally just walk out the door and everything you need is at your steps. There are a lot of popular eateries, coffee shops, shopping, transportation and grocery stores all within walking distance, while downtown is just around the corner."

Located at the corner of 2nd Avenue and 10th Street NW, LIDO will also be home to its own set of shops on the main level, while the second floor will boast a boutique hotel — a first for Battistella, which is expected to be filled with executive long-term guests.

The 60-unit condominuim residence portion will utilize the building's top six floors with units ranging from 433 square feet to 1,500 square feet.

"The development will be attractive to homebuyers looking to downsize, but who still desire a spacious condo," Wilson says. "And it will also appeal to those who want to upgrade and move up. It's perfect for young professionals."

PRICING INFO

The smaller LIDO units start in the $280,000s while the larger condos on the fourth to eighth floors range from the $400,000s to the $900,000s. Construction on the development begins this spring and is expected to be completed by fall 2016.

The spacious condos also feature higher-level finishes that will appeal to a broad range of homebuyers while still keeping with Battistella's reputation for a sleek and modern Italian touch.

"The condos have a sophisticated and luxurious mid-century style to them that is very visually appealing, inside and out."

The LIDO presentation centre is located at 1120 Kensington Rd. NW, and is open Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. For more, call 403-290-1664 or visit battistella.ca/lido.

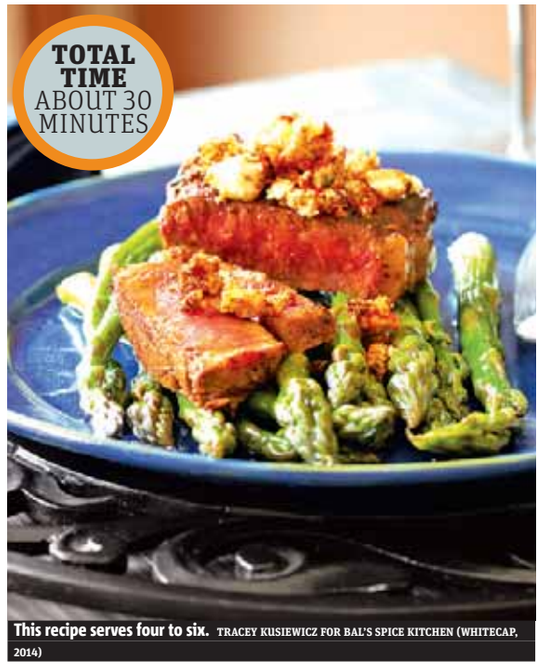
Infusion of Indian ingredients

Rib-eye Steak with Toasted Coriander Blue Cheese. The combination of exotic spices and jazzed up cheese is drool worthy

"Infused with the spices I chose for this recipe, this is a rare treat for your guests or just for you. I have cooked this several times just for myself and thoroughly enjoyed it with a nice glass of red wine," writes Bal Arneson in her book Bal's Spice Kitchen.

1. To make steak masala: In a skillet, toast the cumin seeds, fennel seeds, mustard seeds and peppercorns on medium-low heat until the spice aromas fill the air, about 30 seconds. Turn off the heat and let the pan cool. Process the spices in a spice grinder until coarsely ground, then add the fenugreek leaves, paprika, chili flakes and salt, and give the grinder a quick spin.

2. Preheat the grill to medium-high. Sprinkle the steak masala on the steaks. Gently place the steaks on the heated grill and cook for about 3 to 5 minutes on each side for medium steaks, or to your preferred doneness. Let them sit for a few minutes before serving.



This recipe serves four to six. TRACEY KUSIEWICZ FOR BAL'S SPICE KITCHEN (WHITECAP, 2014)

3. To make toasted coriander blue cheese: Toast the coriander seeds on low heat in a skillet for 30 seconds. Let them cool, then crush them with your hands. In a bowl, thoroughly combine the coriander seeds, blue cheese and paprika.

4. To make the sautéed asparagus: In a saucepan, heat the oil on medium-high. Add the garlic and cook for 30 seconds. Add the asparagus and salt and pepper and cook, stirring frequently, until the asparagus is tender, about 10 to 12 minutes.

5. To plate the dish: Place the asparagus on a plate. Slice the cooked steaks and crumble Toasted Coriander Blue Cheese on top. EXCERPTED FROM BAL'S SPICE KITCHEN (WHITECAP, 2014)

Ingredients

Steak Masala
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) cumin seeds
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) fennel seeds
- 1 tsp (5 ml) brown mustard seeds
- 1 tsp (5 ml) black peppercorns
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) fenugreek leaves
- 1 tsp (15 ml) smoked paprika
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) red chili flakes
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) salt

Steak
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) steak masala
- four 6 oz (175 g) dry-aged rib-eye steak (I prefer 1 1/2-inch/4 cm thick)

Toasted Coriander Blue Cheese
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) coriander seeds
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) blue cheese
- 1 tsp (5 ml) smoked paprika

Sautéed Asparagus
- 1 tbsp (5 ml) cooking oil
- 1 tbsp (5 ml) chopped garlic
- 1 lb (500 g) asparagus, hard ends removed
- salt and pepper to taste

Cookbook of the Week

Spice up your life

The latest release from Bal Arneson, Bal's Spice Kitchen, has a two-fold premise: spice is the key to delicious cooking and making flavourful meals doesn't need to be time consuming. Using traditional Indian recipes as her inspiration, Arneson shows chefs how to complement their favourite dishes with new spice combinations. With a guide to creating your own spice mixtures, recipes include: Mango and Cardamom Soup, Mixed Lentils with Eggplant, Tandoori Baked Chicken and more. METRO

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Curling

Canada on top at women's worlds

Canada's Rachel Homan picked up a pair of wins at the women's world curling championship Wednesday and is in a tie atop the standings with an 8-1 record.

The top four teams at the conclusion of the preliminary round Thursday advance to playoffs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Peverley on mend after surgery

The Dallas Stars say Rich Peverley has undergone successful surgery to correct an abnormal heart rhythm, just more than a week after the forward collapsed on the bench during a game.

Stars general manager Jim Nill says Peverley was released from the Cleveland Clinic on Wednesday, a day after surgery.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB spring training

Blue Jays pound Phillies despite Happ's woes

J.A. Happ offered more questions than answers Wednesday in another rocky outing for the Toronto Blue Jays.

The six-foot-five lefthander, pencilled in as one of Toronto's starters, lasted just 2 2/3 innings in an 11-6 Grapefruit League win over the Philadelphia Phillies.

Also on Wednesday, the Jays sent starter Ricky Romero and fellow pitcher Marcus Stroman to the minors. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kaillie Humphries, centre, and Olympic teammates are acknowledged before a Flames game at the Scotiabank Saddledome on Feb. 27. TODD KOROL/GETTY IMAGES

Humphries trying her hand in Octagon

Mixed martial arts. Two-time Olympic bobsled champ to get 'taste of fun training'

Olympian Kaillie Humphries is moving from the bobsled track to the Octagon. At least for a taste.

The 28-year-old Calgary native, who piloted Canada to gold at the Sochi Games in two-woman bobsled, tweeted Tuesday that she will be at The Ultimate Fighter Nations Finale card on April 16 in Quebec City.

"Looking forward to entering the octagon on April 13th in Quebec City!" said Humphries from her verified Twitter account. "Venez nous voir!"

Humphries added a "tale of the tape" picture with her height and weight.

A UFC spokesman said Humphries is a fan of mixed martial arts who is "getting her first taste of fun training." But she is not fighting.

The bobsledder will attend a public event April 13 and will "learn a few things firsthand with some of our fighters.

"She'll then come to the fight and will likely also attend the weigh-ins," the UFC spokesman said. "She's been a huge fan so we're happy to have her out."

Humphries, along with teammate Heather Moyse, were Canada's flagbearers at the Winter Olympics closing ceremony on Feb. 23.

The Quebec card will serve as the finale of the UFC reality TV show that has put a team of Canadian fighters against a group of mixed martial artists from Australia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Decorated champion

- Kaillie Humphries has won two Olympic gold medals in the two-woman bobsled — first in 2010 at the Vancouver Winter Games, and recently in Sochi.
- She is also the two-time defending overall World Cup champion.

4 SPORTS

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Defenceman Mark Giordano is one of three current Calgary players who will be key to the offseason rebuilding of the Flames, writes Rory Boylen of The Hockey News. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Three names to rekindle Flames

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Rory Boylen
calgary@metronews.ca

When a team is going through the rebuilding phase, it still needs somewhat of a veteran presence to help the young core along.

So while the Calgary Flames should still be going into this summer seeking to acquire a base of young assets — be they players or draft picks — much like the Buffalo Sabres have done, they'll need to keep some of their experienced players around.

If I were the Flames, I would move forward, at least in the short-term, with these players to help the next batch of Flames grow into NHL form. Every other player over the age of 25 who does not appear on this list is someone I would be seeking to trade for future assets.

1. Mark Giordano: Defence is the hardest position for a young player to work himself into, especially playing the effective minutes Giordano does for the Flames. Only eight players in the entire NHL average more ice time per game than the Flames captain and each is a vitally important contributor to their team. Giordano is no different. He's top 15 at his position in goals and points and, amazingly, is a plus-6 for one of the worst teams in the league. That kind of stable contributor is both hard to find and even more difficult to develop alone.

2. Jiri Hudler: As the saying goes, someone has to do the scoring on a bad team and Hudler has stepped into that role. The free agent signee has exceeded expectations by scoring at the best point-per-game rate of his NHL career. He doesn't need to keep setting career highs, but if he can continue to post 50 points a year and eventually, down the line, settle in as a secondary producer, the Flames would be happy.

3. Curtis Glencross: A heart-and-soul guy who can score 25 goals with the potential for 30, Glencross would be a welcome character player on any young team. He was cut down by injuries — and that'll always be a concern with him — but he brings a gritty and productive style that could rub off on impressionable youth.

NHL

Leafs lose Ranger in loss to Bolts

The condition of injured defenceman Paul Ranger overshadowed the Toronto Maple Leafs' 5-3 loss to the Tampa Bay Lightning on Wednesday.

Ranger was taken to a local hospital with a head injury suffered late in the first period when he was crushed into the boards by Tampa Bay's Alex Killorn. Ranger was stable, conscious and alert after being taken to hospital for assessment, the Leafs said on Twitter. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL. Hawks' Coach Q registers win No. 700

Corey Crawford stopped 23 shots for his second shutout this season to backstop the Blackhawks to a 4-0 win over the St. Louis Blues on Wednesday that gave Chicago coach Joel Quenneville his 700th win.

Chicago ended the league-leading Blues' nine-game point streak (8-0-1) and dealt St. Louis its first regulation loss against a Central Division opponent this season. It was a costly victory for Chicago as leading scorer Patrick Kane left the game at 7:56 of the second period, favouring his left leg following a collision with Brenden Morrow. Kane is expected to miss about three weeks, Quenneville said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chicago coach Joel Quenneville GETTY IMAGES

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
The Sun moves into your sign today, so there can be no more excuses. You know what you want, you know how to get it and you know that if you make a genuine effort nothing can stop you. The world is yours.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Cosmic activity in the most sensitive area of your chart means you may tend to fear the worst over the next few days, but that is quite natural. How good or how bad you feel is really up to you alone.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
There are so many positive influences for friendship at the moment that you would be a fool not to take advantage. If you need assistance in any way just open your mouth.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If you want to move up in the world, it's time to get yourself noticed. It does not matter how much talent you have, what truly matters is that you have a clear goal in mind and that you go after it.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Nothing matters more than the truth and if you keep that in mind over the next few days, you won't go far wrong. The truth may at times be uncomfortable but that is not an excuse to ignore it.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
The Sun's change of signs means you need to change too. It also means you need to get rid of ideas you are comfortable with but which in are holding you back.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There is no point trying to keep plans to yourself because loved ones and co-workers will find out about them. You have nothing to hide, so let them know what you are up to.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
It is one thing to be a hard worker but another to waste time and energy on tasks that mean nothing to you. Your aim today must be to decide what is important to you and what should be trashed.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The Sun's move into your fellow Fire sign of Aries endows you with the kind of self-belief that moves mountains. There is a world out there waiting to be impressed by your brilliance.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You don't need to explain why you are doing certain things. Others will respect you more if you are confident about following your dreams. Don't complain. Don't explain. Don't apologize. Just act.

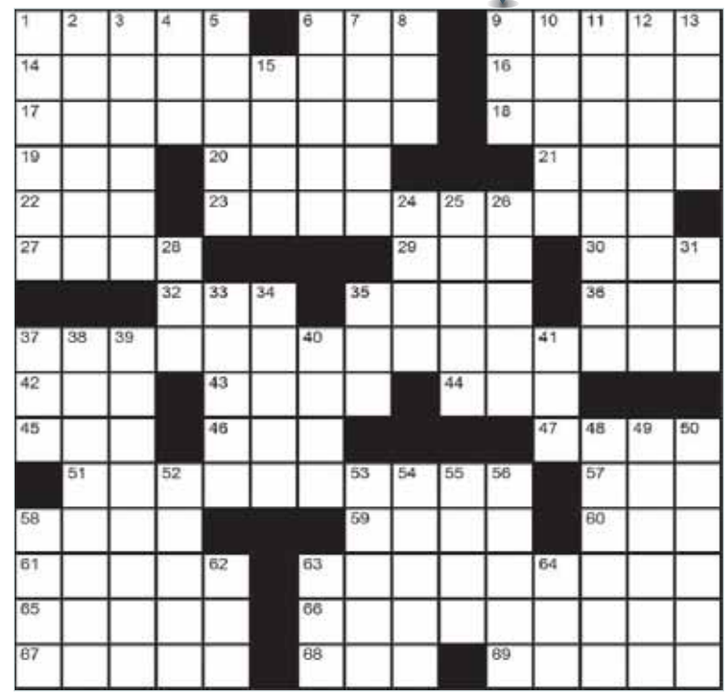
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The Sun moves in your favour today, making it easy to get your own way. Does that fill your head with ideas? It should, and each one of those ideas is entirely legitimate.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
There is not much point trying to appeal to someone's common sense when they are hell bent on following a course of action that is irrational. Let them get on with it and make sure you keep a safe distance between you. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

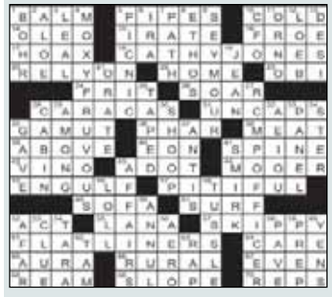
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Some citrus fruits
6. Food grain
9. 2250 the old way
14. Spring, in Sherbrooke
16. Family band from Lakefield, ON
17. Yukon's official tree, __ Fir
18. Hell's master
19. 'Speed' suffix
20. Strauss' Tausend und __ Nacht
21. Positioned horizontally
22. Nero's 551
23. Mid-coast of BC community, 'Home of the Rain People': 2 wds.
27. Gas station
29. Pot
30. Belief system
32. Ms. Thurman
35. During
36. Hide __ hair
37. Corb Lund and the __ __
42. __-locka, Florida
43. Increases
44. Picture
45. Puny paranormal power
46. Jersey's call
47. Hic, __, hoc
51. Nova Scotia town
57. Sight: French
58. Ancient colonnade
59. Decorative case
60. "Michael Collins" (1996) org.
61. Maison's entrance
63. Distinctions
65. "Our Father which __ __ heaven..."
66. Craigellachie, BC: Where the Canadian Pacific Railway's ceremonial __ __ was driven into the track in 1885
67. Do more lawn work
68. Tropical cuckoo
69. Set of three

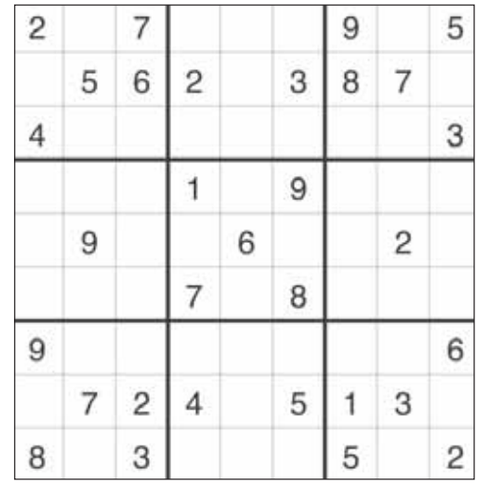
Down
1. Advantage
2. Porridges
3. Ex __ (Book label)
4. Once __ __ lifetime
5. 'The Great' canonized pope, __. __
6. GNR's "Sweet Child __ __"
7. Sleep __
8. Blood-sucker, when doubled
9. Real estate database, commonly
10. AC/DC's "You Shook __ __ Night Long"
11. Type of salad dressing
12. "Beat This Heart" by Tim __ feat. Serena Ryder
13. Actress, Jamie-__ Sigler
15. Grand
24. Unfeeling
25. Restaurant side order
26. Outkast member, __ 3000
28. Away
31. "__. Doubtfire" (1993)
33. Florida locale
34. Sometimes, Off __ __
35. Montreal football players, to fans
37. Horticulturist's helper
38. American shipping company that has franchises in Canada, The _ _ _ __
39. Camaraderies
40. What Snoopy is, __ __
41. Word with Beatles ...how it's commonly mis-typed
48. "Addicted to You" Swedish DJ/producer
49. "I get it now!"
50. Discontinued
52. Mathematical proportion
53. Macho guy
54. "__ __ _." (Posh "Here's me!")
55. Theatre great, Alfred __
56. "Villain, thou __..." - Shakespeare
58. Box
62. Stop
63. Old music high note
64. American airer since '71

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

9	4	8	7	2	6	5	1	3
7	1	6	9	3	5	8	4	2
3	5	2	1	4	8	6	9	7
2	7	5	8	6	1	4	3	9
1	8	4	2	9	3	7	5	6
6	9	3	4	5	7	1	2	8
5	6	9	3	8	4	2	7	1
4	2	1	6	7	9	3	8	5
8	3	7	5	1	2	9	6	4

Weather

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAX: -1° MIN: -2°	MAX: -10° MIN: -13°	MAX: -6° MIN: -10°

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